

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-32 are now pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 19 and 32 are amended, and claims 8, 20, 33 and 34 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-18, 23 and 25-31 as being dependent upon the rejected base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 19 and 32 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

OATH/DECLARATION

The Examiner has asserted that the Oath/Declaration is defective because all of the inventors have not signed the Oath/Declaration.

Applicants submit that all of the inventors have signed the originally filed Oath executed on October 3, 2003. Although the inventors have not signed the same document, it is permissible by the U.S. Patent Office to permit inventors to sign individual documents separately. Enclosed is another copy of the combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for the Examiner's consideration. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooney et al. (USP 5,793,636); in view of Radkowsky (USP 5,949,837) has been rendered moot due to the incorporation of allowable subject matter

claim 8 into independent claims 1, 9 and 32. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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